

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

**Investing in a New MLK Medical Hub for At-Risk Children**

On January 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved key recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection including the pairing of a Public Health Nurse with a Children's Social Worker during abuse and neglect investigations for children under 24 months of age, referring children identified with medical needs to a Department of Health Services' (DHS) Medical Hub, and enhancing staff at the Medical Hubs to create capacity for the new referrals.

Medical Hubs play a critical role in providing a system of care for every detained child or child at risk of detention in Los Angeles County (County). Six County Medical Hubs, in addition to a Hub at Children's Hospital, ensure access to quality health and mental health evaluations and services, care coordination, and linkages to specialty care for children in the child welfare system. The Medical Hubs currently provide services for approximately 29,000 visits per year.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Medical Center has the highest number of abuse and neglect referrals and removals in the County and was selected as the first to implement the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations.

In an effort to ensure each Medical Hub is able and ready to provide services to every child under 24 months of age, DHS conducted an assessment of each Medical Hub's

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strengths and weaknesses. The findings of this assessment, included in the January 9, 2015 report to the Board, identified inadequate space at several of the County's Medical Hubs. DHS identified opportunities to address inadequate space issues at all Medical Hubs except for MLK.

The MLK Medical Hub is currently located in a trailer built in 1974. The trailer is over 40 years old and has far exceeded its useful life. The dilapidated conditions include warped floorboards, a leaking roof, a dysfunctional heating and air cooling system and do not promote the healing mission of the Medical Hub for the County's at-risk children and families. A plan to address the space shortfalls at the MLK Medical Hub and build a new clinic is needed.

**THEREFORE I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services to develop a comprehensive plan, in coordination with the Directors of the Departments of Public Works, Regional Planning, and Community Development Commission (CDC), and the Interim Chief Executive Officer, to relocate the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Hub facility to the CDC-owned property on the southwest corner of 118th Street and Wilmington Avenue in the unincorporated area of Willowbrook, without disruption to current services or the planned phase-in of Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations, and report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing within sixty days. The plan should include a:

- a. Strategy to fund the relocation; timeline for relocation; plan to relocate parking for both the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Public Health and the new Medical Hub to the adjacent CDC-owned lot west of the parcel; and
- b. Project description with a recommendation on the feasibility of incorporating a children's behavioral clinic on site.

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(YV/KK/KS)